

Examples of the Beast's Activity

The beast from the earth teaches false religion, especially religion that supports sinful human authority. Some people are looking for an Anti-Christ, one person who will do these things. But 1 John 4:3 (1536) says the anti-christ is already here. There are many examples of this through history.

The Roman Empire

During John's life, the Roman emperors (kings) called themselves gods and required people to offer incense to them. This was false religion. If you refused, the government could kill you.

Nazi Germany

Everyone knows Hitler killed Jews, but he also killed many Christians. Hitler brought back old pagan religions and tried to use them to support the government.

Soviet Union

In the Soviet Union, Christians were persecuted and killed. Religion was against the law. They said everyone should trust and believe the government.

China

In China today, the government allows some Christian churches. But China requires these churches to say the government is the head of the church.

To Think About...

Will this kind of persecution and false religion come to the U.S.? Is it already here? How will you respond?

The Book of Revelation God's Picture of History and Heaven

Lesson 12, Revelation 13:11-18

To Begin...

In the U.S., we have what is named "separation of church and state." Are church and government separate? Is there a way the church is for or against the government, or the government is for or against the church?

The Devil's Trusted Helpers

In Lesson 11, we saw the Beast from the Sea means the devil tries to use every human authority against Christians. Governments, economic systems, schools, etc., all can persecute Christians. In this lesson, we will see the second beast works with the first beast. This Beast from the Earth also persecutes Christians, but in a different way. Again, we will see (1) who or what this beast is and (2) how it works with the first beast and the devil. But we will also see that when we compare them to God, they are very weak. God has already guaranteed He will defeat them.

Description of the Beast From the Earth

Revelation 13:11-12

The first beast came from the sea, showing it came from the devil's wickedness to oppress people. The second beast comes from the earth. That could mean it comes from among people, from people's own sinful hearts.

Compare the serpent (devil) and the two beasts. For the serpent and two beasts, write down how many heads, horns and crowns they have.

	Heads	Horns	Crowns
Serpent (12:3)			on heads
Sea Beast (13:1)			on horns
Earth Beast (13:11)			

Which has more authority and power, the serpent, the beast from the sea, or the beast from the earth?

Where does the beast from the sea get its authority (13:2)?
Where does the beast from the earth get its authority (13:2)?

The beast from the earth is described like a lamb, but it talked like a serpent. What is the beast trying to be like? Read John 1:29 (1333) and Matthew 7:15 (1218).

What the Beast from the Earth Does

Revelation 13:12-18

The second beast makes everyone worship the first beast. (But Christians will not worship it.) How does it make everyone worship? How does it deceive (fool) people?

Should these things surprise us? Matthew 24:23-28 (1245)

The second beast, the beast from the earth, is like a false prophet that teaches a false religion. Who does the beast say people should worship? (We will see examples at the end of the lesson.)

What happens to people if they will not worship the first beast from the sea?

The “Mark of the Beast” is one thing from Revelation that people talk about the most. If you remember, we already talked about a mark in Revelation 7, where God put a mark/seal on His people. Read Ephesians 1:13-14 (1466). What is God’s seal on you? What does the seal mean?

What does the mark from the second beast show?

Who is the Beast from the Earth?
The first beast from the sea is a political beast. The beast from the earth is a religious beast. The devil tries to use false religion to lead people away from God. The false religions work with the government and other authorities to persecute Christians. The number 666 means the devil and the two beasts working together against Christians. This is an “unholy trinity,” the devil trying to copy God again.

What About...